

REMARKS

The Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Barqadle for carefully reviewing this application. In the Office Action dated November 20, 2006, the Examiner required an Election between two purported inventions, Inventions I and II. The Applicants have elected Invention II, corresponding to Claims 29-42, with TRAVERSE. In a previous amendment, Applicants cancelled Claims 2, 4, 9-12, 15, 17-19, 21, and 25 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. The Applicants have withdrawn Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 13-14, 16-20, 22-24, and 26-28 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein as a result of the Restriction Requirement.

Request for Reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement

In the Restriction Requirement of November 20, 2006, the Examiner states that the inventions in the present application are distinct and are therefore, subject to a restriction requirement. Applicants traverse the restriction requirement asserted by the Examiner in the present application.

As clearly set forth in the second paragraph of Section 803 of the MPEP, “[i]f the search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without *serious burden*, the examiner *must examine them on the merits*, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions.” (emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that two purportedly distinct inventions *in the same class* is not a serious burden to consider all of the pending claims in a single application. A review of the subject matter set forth in the claims shows that they are substantially related. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that restriction is improper and request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, for at least this reason. The Applicants in no way concede

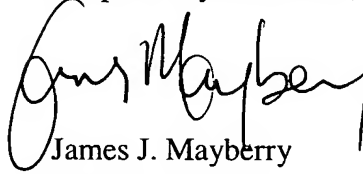
that the Examiner's combination/subcombination analysis or other characterization of the Applicants' claims are correct.

But in order to be responsive to the restriction requirement, Applicants have elected, WITH TRAVERSE, Claims 29-42 (Invention II) to be examined in the present application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his restriction requirement and act on the claims designated by the Examiner as Invention I as well as the claims designated by the Examiner as Election II in the present application. If the Examiner does persist in his restriction requirement, Applicants reserve the right to file a petition or to file a divisional application directed to the Invention I claims (Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 13-14, 16-20, 22-24, and 26-28) at a later date if they so desire.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by telephone conference, please contact the undersigned in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area at (404) 572-3538.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Mayberry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Mayberry" clearly distinguishable.

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